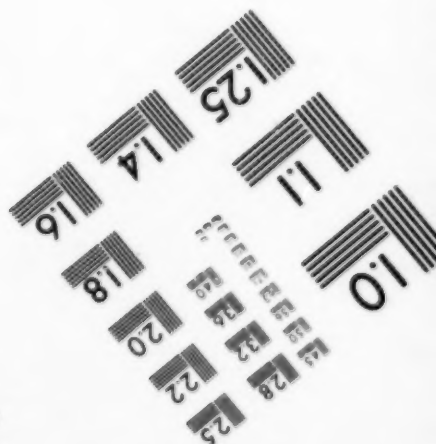
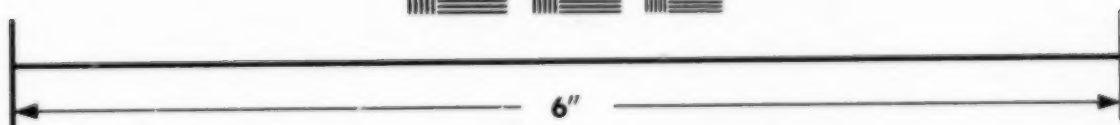
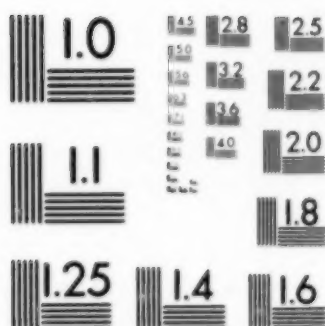


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Japan

Reactions to Attack on Iraq Reported

Tokyo 'Understands' Action

OW1401001593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT
14 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Thursday said it "understands" the reasons behind the United States-led air strike into Iraq, but does not expect the action to escalate much further.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, currently in Paris, remarked that the strike, on Wednesday evening in Iraq (early Thursday Japan time) "was taken to ensure the execution of the United Nations resolutions (against Iraq)," adding that he "understands" the coalition strike into Iraq.

In Tokyo, Foreign Ministry sources said the attack was a limited action to punish Iraq and suggested that Baghdad does not likely have the ability to mount a real counterattack.

On Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry summoned Iraqi Ambassador Rashid Al-Risai to express its concern over repeated Iraqi violations of the U.N. resolutions.

The government may change the itinerary of Crown Prince Naruhito's planned visit to six Middle East countries in late January, government sources said.

The imperial household agency will consult the Foreign Ministry over the trip and may omit Kuwait from the countries to be visited if the situation further deteriorates, the sources said.

The crown prince is scheduled to leave Tokyo for Oman on January 22 and then visit Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He is scheduled to arrive in Kuwait on February 2 and return to Tokyo on February 4.

The tour of the six Persian Gulf states may be the 32-year-old prince's last overseas trip as a bachelor.

On January 19, three days before his departure, the Imperial Household Council, the top decision-making body on important matters concerning the royal family, will convene and is expected to officially sanction the prince's engagement to 29-year-old diplomat Masako Owada.

'Supports' Air Strike

OW1401035393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT
14 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday he "understands" why a U.S.-led coalition launched an air raid into southern Iraq and blamed Baghdad's "provocative attitude" for the need to strike Iraqi missile sites.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who is currently in Paris, echoed the sentiments of Miyazawa, who is in Kuala Lumpur on the second leg of a Southeast Asian tour.

In the Malaysian capital, Miyazawa said, "this limited military action by coalition forces was taken to ensure the execution of the United Nations resolutions (against Iraq)."

He said he "understands" the strike and was contacted by the United States about the raid that occurred late Wednesday night, though he was not directly contacted by U.S. President George Bush.

"Despite repeated warnings from the U.N. Security Council, Iraq again and again violated U.N. resolutions and continued to take a provocative attitude against the consensus opinion of international society," Miyazawa said.

Meanwhile in Paris, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe offered a similar assessment of the multinational strike.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said the government "understands and supports the air strike" after a meeting of executives of the Security Council was held at the prime minister's residence to discuss the raid.

Kono said in a statement the government hopes Iraq will honor the U.N. resolutions.

Kono told a press conference that the government has no plan at the present to change the itinerary of Crown Prince Naruhito's planned visit to six Middle East countries in late January.

[passage omitted]

Urges Iraq To Adhere to Resolutions

OW1401121493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT
14 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Japan urged Iraq on Thursday to fully abide by UN Security Council resolutions to prevent its current confrontation with members of the U.S.-led allied coalition from escalating, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada issued the warning in a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Rashid al-Rifa'i, who was summoned to the ministry for the second time this week.

Owada, father to Crown Prince Naruhito's bride-to-be Masako Owada, told al-Rifa'i that how events develop in the wake of Wednesday night's allied air raid depends largely on Baghdad.

He was quoted as saying it is "not too late," even at the present juncture, for the Iraqi Government to take steps to deescalate the tense situation.

The officials said Owada reiterated Japan's support for the punitive steps so far taken by the allied coalition forces, saying Japan regards them as a restrained effort to enforce the relevant Security Council resolutions.

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